

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph starting at page 1, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Embodiments of the present invention claim priority from Provisional Application Serial No. 60/152,785, filed September 3, 1999, and are related to U.S. utility patent applications entitled "License Management System And Method With Multiple License Servers", Attorney Docket No. 230074.0227, filed August 25, 2000; "License Management System And Method With License Balancing", Attorney Docket No. 230074.0228, filed August 25, 2000; and "System And Method For Selecting A Server In A Multiple Server License Management System", Attorney Docket No. 230074.0229, filed August 25, 2000. The contents of each of these applications are incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 11, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In preferred embodiments of the present invention, when the license servers 14 in the server pool are started up, one of the license servers is designated as a leader server. Selection of a leader server is described in a related U.S. utility application entitled "System and Method for Selecting a Server in a Multiple Server License Management System," attorney docket no. 230074/0229, filed August 25, 2000, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein. Other license servers 14 are designated as follower servers. The leader server always maintains a global picture of the current distribution of allocations within every license server 14 the server pool.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 12, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When a user at a client computer 12 desires to run Application v1.0 from a follower server, such as follower server B, for example, the client computer 12 may first load some or all of the protected program into the transient memory of the client computer 12, along with the program code corresponding to a shell or library of API functions. Alternatively, the protected program may remain in persistent memory 18 until and unless the server computer communicates an authorization signal to the shell program or library of API functions. Selection of a follower server from which to request authorization is described in a related U.S. utility application entitled "System and Method for Selecting a Server in a Multiple Server License Management System," attorney docket no. 230074/0229, filed August 25, 2000, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein. Alternatively, the protected program may remain in persistent memory 18 until and unless the server computer communicates an authorization signal to the shell program or library of API functions. Loading of the shell program or library of API functions is preferably transparent to the user on the client computer 12 and, preferably, occurs in response to the user inputting a command to open the protected software (for example, by clicking a mouse button on an icon associated with the protected software).

Please replace paragraph starting at page 13, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As part of the function of the shell or library of API functions, a request is then sent from the client computer 12 to follower server B for one or more authorizations to run the protected program. For purposes of this example, assume that client computer 12 requested only one authorization. Follower server B, under the control of the license management software, responds to the request by looking at its distribution table 36 to determine whether it has available allocations for Application v1.0. In the example of FIG. 5, follower server B has 30 allocations available, as represented by the available allocations record for each server in the pool (reference character 38) in the distribution table 36 for follower server B. Because it has available allocations, follower server B communicates an authorization message to the client computer 12. As illustrated in FIG. 6, once the authorization message is sent, the distribution

table 36 is updated so that the available allocations record 38 for follower server B decreases to 29, and the allocations in use record 42 for follower server B increases to one. If an insufficient number of allocations are available to completely satisfy the request, no authorizations are sent, and follower server B communicates another message back to the client computer 12, denying the request. In preferred embodiments, follower server B will then issue a borrow request in an attempt to borrow available allocations from another source. Borrowing is described in a related U.S. utility application entitled "License Management System and Method with License Balancing," attorney docket no. 230074/0228, filed August 25, 2000, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 19, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The communication, or ping, that occurs between a client computer 12 that has received a network authorization from a license server 14 is described in a related U.S. utility application entitled "License Management System and Method with Multiple License Servers," attorney docket no. 230074/0227, filed August 25, 2000, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein. In contrast, ping is disabled when a client computer 12 receives a commuter authorization from a license server 14. Because neither the client computer 12 nor the license server 14 will respond to the lack of ping when ping is disabled, communication between the client computer 12 and the server pool can cease for long periods of time.